



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	02-10-03	Interpretation #	03-013
Topic	Fire Alarm Battery Supervision		
Code Section(s)	§1-5.8.7.1 and §1-5.2.9.5, NFPA 72 (1999 ed)		
Requested by	Mark Miller Riverside County Fire Department 210 W San Jacinto Ave Perris, CA 92570		

Are fire alarm system batteries of a control panel requiring a 12v secondary power supply required to be individually supervised when multiple 12v batteries are installed in parallel?

Yes. Sections 1-5.8.7.1 and 1-5.2.9.5 of NFPA 72 (1999 ed) require that a means of appropriate supervision be provided for both the batteries and the battery charger. The method used shall be capable of detecting a failure of either the battery(ies) or the battery charger, and must initiate a trouble signal. Batteries installed in parallel do not comply with the intent of Section 1-5.8.7.1 unless the fire alarm control unit's secondary power supply is specifically designed and listed to individually supervise each battery or bank of batteries installed in parallel.